4 MAY 1944
A
C.R.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st. 42.

To The Chairman and Members of the Council.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my annual report for the year 1942 with corresponding statistics on various subjects for the preceding years 1941 and 1940.

Complying with Circular No. 2604, 24/3/42 from the Ministry of Health particulars of population and other matter shown in this Report will not be given to the Press for publicity.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area (in acres)	4,576.
Residential Population. (Registrar General's Figure)	6,690.
Number of inhabited Houses.	1,776.
Rateable value.	£38,289.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£157.10.6d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

Legitimate.	- Male, 42.	Female, 29.	Total.	74.
Illegitimate.	- Male, 2.	Female, 1.		

1942.	Birth Rate.	11.06.
1941.	Corresponding Year.	11.77.
1940.	" "	11.99.

Deaths.

Male, 24.	Female, 42.	Total 66.

Death Rate.	1942.	9.86.
Corresponding Year.	1941.	11.36.
" "	1940.	10.12.

Deaths of Infants under One Year.

Legitimate.	- Male, 3.	Female, 1.	Total.	4.
Illegitimate.	- Male, 0.	Female, 0.		

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)	1942.	0.59.
Corresponding Year.	1941.	0.27.
" "	1940.	0.31.

Still Births.

Legitimate.	- Male, 2.	Female, 0.	Total.	2.
Illegitimate.	- Male, 0.	Female, 0.		

Still Birth Rate.	1942.	0.29.
Corresponding Year.	1941.	0.27.
" "	1940.	0.31.

Cont:

The chief causes of death were as follows:-

	1942.	1941.	1940.
Diabetes.	-	1.	
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	1.	-	-
Tuberculosis.	2.	1.	2.
Syphilitic Diseases.	1.	1.	1.
Cancer.	8.	10.	8.
Vascular.	5.	12.	9.
Heart.	21.	27.	21.
Circulatory.	2.	3.	1.
Bronchitis.	3.	4.	1.
Pneumonia.	2.	2.	3.
Respiratory.	1.	1.	2.
Digestive.	3.	2.	3.
Stomach.	-	1.	-
Premature and Infant Deaths.	4.	2.	4.
Suicide.	3.	-	-
Road traffic, violent causes and all other causes.	10.	14.	8.
Nephritis.	-	1.	1.
Appendicitis.	-	-	1.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases were notified:-

	1942.	1941.	1940.
Whooping Cough.	-	12.	1.
Scarlet Fever.	5.	7.	4.
Opthalmia Neonatorum.	1.	-	-
Para Typhoid.	1.	-	-
Tuberculosis.	1.	-	-
Pneumonia.	1.	1.	-
Chicken Pox.	5.	50.	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	1.
Sonne Dysentery.	4.	-	-
Measles.	6.	144.	4.
Diphtheria.	-	5.	2.
Total.	24.	219.	12.

The scarlet Fever cases were treated at the North Herts Isolation Hospital.

The cases of Sonne Dysentery were trated at the source of infection, viz:- The Balham Nursery School, Sishes End, Stevenage, and the case of Para Typhoid was also treated at the source of infection, viz:- Herts Hospital.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Doctors, Nurses and School Teachers have all co-operated to make a success of the scheme and the children have been immunised chiefly at their respective schools and a few at the Doctors Surgeries.

85.71% of an estimated population of 350 children under 5 and,

90.23% of an estimated population of 922 children between 5 and 15 were immunised.

Cont:

TYPHUS.

A specially trained squad has been organised to combat this disease in case of emergency.

SCHOOL INSPECTION.

During the year children were examined at the various Schools by the School Medical Officer. On the whole they were found in good physique, health and in most cases their clothing was good.

COMMUNAL FEEDING.

A large percentage of the School children have their mid-day meals regularly at a British Restaurant.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS.

(a) Medical.
The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer holding a Diploma in Public Health. He is also Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District Councils of Baldock and Letchworth.

(b) Sanitary.
The Sanitary Inspector holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

LABORATORY FACILITIES, HOSPITAL FACILITIES, ETC.

Samples of water, Milk, etc: are sent to the Public Health Emergency Hospital Haileybury College, Hertford Heath for Bacteriological Examination and certain cases of Infectious Diseases to the North Herts Isolation Hospital.

INFANT WELFARE AND MATERNITY CENTRE.

Good work has been accomplished at this Centre and on the whole most of the children who attended were free from Head lice etc.

10 cases of Scabies were reported most of which were nursed at home and the rest were sent to Chalkdale House, Hitchin for treatment.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, WATER SUPPLIES.

The Town is supplied by 2 water works Pumping plants both Electrically operated with one Steam stand-by from which a constant and normal supply of water is distributed by main to all the Houses with the exception of approximately 70 Houses which are situated on the outskirts.

1 sample was taken and submitted for full Bacteriological and Chemical Examination and,

12 samples taken and submitted for Bacteriological Examination all of which were entirely satisfactory.

CONT.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b3017417x

WELLS - PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES.

There are 26 wells or boreholes on the outskirts of the Town from which 5 samples were taken for bacteriological Examination all of which were found satisfactory.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Town is provided with a foul sewer 24" diameter leading to bacterial treatment at the Sewage Disposal Works and a 36" surface water sewer discharging into a water-course both of which give satisfactory results.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE.

House refuse collection and the disposal of same and the cleansing of the Town is supervised and carried out in a very efficient manner by the Surveyor.

The refuse is disposed of by semi-controlled tipping.

During the year 124 tons were salvaged which realised £608.

MORTUARY.

A mortuary was erected in 1936 and is fitted for holding Post-mortem examinations.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total number of inspections for all purposes, 613 divided as follows:-

For defects under the Housing Acts.	165.
For defects under the Factories Act.	10.
For the prevention of Infectious Diseases.	40.
As to Sanitary conditions of Schools and Public Halls.	10.
Inspection under the Milk and Dairies Order.	50.
Inspection of Slaughterhouses, Butchers Shops, Vans etc.	75.
For the prevention of nuisances.	71.
Inspection of Drainage etc.	15.
Inspection of Private wells and sampling.	24.
Inspections re: Rats and Mice Destruction.	4.
Inspections re: Condemned Food.	42.
Inspections re: Theatres and Enertainments Act.	3.
Inspections re: Shops Act 1934.	6.

Miscellaneous.

Inspections re: Storage of Paraffin.	32.
Inspection re: storage of Petroleum.	4.
Inspections re: Lofts Order.	50.
Inspections re: Employment Agencies.	2.
A.R.P. re: Food Decontamination.	10.

HOUSING.

House to house inspection was carried out at a number of Houses.

No Private houses were erected during the year. On account of war conditions shortage of Labour, materials etc. this work has been somewhat restricted.

CONT:

Although there has been an influx of Evacuees and work people overcrowding has been kept down to a minimum.

Sanitary improvements were undertaken in existing dwelling houses viz:-

Re: drainage.	6.
Sanitary improvements including drainage.	16.
Other work for the abatement of nuisances (by informal action).	45.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

26 samples of accredited Milk and 2 of Tuberculosis Tested Milk were taken for Bacteriological Examination.

There are 18 Registered Producers or Producer-retailers of which 1 is licensed for the production of Tuberculosis Tested Milk, 1 for Pasteurised and 4 for Accredited Milk.

Meat and other Foods.

There are 6 licensed slaughterhouses in the District which owing to war conditions are not in regular use, which are kept up to a fair standard. Occasional slaughterings licensed by the Food Control Committee are carried out.

Reserved Food supplies are examined from time to time also Foods suspected to be unfit for human consumption in shops, Stores, etc. have to be certified by your Inspector before replacements can be made.

Bakehouses, Manufacturers of Preserved Food and Tradesmens Vans etc. are inspected with a view of keeping up a good standard of cleanliness.

TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS.

Table of new cases and Mortality for the year.

Age Period.	New Cases. Respiratory.		Non-Resp:		Deaths. Respiratory.		Non-Resp:	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1								
1 - 5								
5 - 15								
15 - 25		1.						
25 - 35						2		
35 - 45		1						
45 - 55								
55 - 65 and over								
TOTALS.		2.				2		

P.T.O.

In conslusion I would express my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector and other Senior officials who have assisted me in compiling this Report.

Your obedient Servant,

Bertram Sugsit

Medical Officer of Health.